DIEV ET MON DROIT.

¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the preſeruation of Grounds for making of Salt-Peeter, and to reſtore ſuch Grounds which now are deſtroyed, and to command aſſiſtance to be giuen to his Maieſties Salt-Peeter-makers.

WHereas the making of Salt-Peeter and Gunne-powder within Our Realmes and Dominions, is a great benefit, ſtrength, ſafety and defence to Us and Our Subiects in generall, in that it effecteth and aſſureth a certaine prouiſion thereof to be had for the furniſhing of Our ſtores at all times, and from time to time with ſuch needfull prouiſions, as in time of neceſſitie, being to be had from forraine parts, are not to be obtained but at the pleaſure of other Princes, at vnreaſonable rates and prices, and the ſame being ſo obtained, may happen to be intercepted, or by contrary winds hindered, or vtterly loſt by ſhipwracke, or ſuch like Caſualties on the Seas; And if no ſuch hazard were, yet the ſame is not to be had but for ready mony to be tranſported and paid for the ſame, Wherby the Treaſure of Our Realmes would be much diminiſhed, and other forreine Realme thereby enriched: And ſeeing there is within Our owne Realmes great plentie of the Mine of Salt-Peeter (if it be preſerued, & not ſuffered to be deſtroyed) the benefit whereof is not meet to be loſt, nor the imployment of many of Our louing Subiects thereabouts to bee neglected, (which great bleſſing of God vnto this Kingdome, in giuing it meanes for the defence thereof, within it ſelfe, can neuer be truely valued but by the want thereof) Wee heretofore, and at this time, haue committed the care of this buſineſſe to perſons of Honour and eſpeciall truſt, to the end Our Kingdomes might not be vnfurniſhed with that prouiſion, which ſo much concernes the ſtrength, ſafety, and defence thereof, and of Us, and all Our Subiects in generall; neither on the other ſide Our Subiects might be wronged by the Salt-Peter makers, Who haue authority to make the ſame. Yet We are credibly giuen to vnderſtand, that this great bleſſing of God vnto this Kingdome is abuſed, & like to be vtterly loſt, by the euill dealings of many ill diſpoſed perſons (who reſpecting more their owne then the publike good) and hauing Douehouſes for breeding of Pigeons, being in ſome meaſure a grieuance and an inconuenience, and an offence to Our Subiects in generall, in deſtroying their Corne, and other Graine, much more then the profit which it any way bringeth, either to the publike, or owners thereof, might therefore well, without grudging, be contented to affoord the dung thereof for the increaſing of ſo neceſſary a prouiſion, as concernes both the ſafety of themſelues, and of the whole Kingdome; yet being not ſenſible of the great danger and inconuenience that the want of theſe prouiſions may bring vpon the Kingdome in generall, and themſelues in particular, doe take liberty vnto themſelues daily to vſe, and practiſe many wayes and deuices purpoſely to ſpoile, kill, and vtterly to deſtroy the Mines of Salt-Peeter, and the growth and increaſe thereof, aſwell in ſuch Douehouſes and Douecoats, as in Cellars, ſtables, and other places in their poſſeſſions and occupations (wherein the ſame Mines are naturally apt to breed and increaſe, and which are allowed to be wrought and vſed for Our ſeruice) by carrying out of ſuch places the ground or earth that is naturally good for that ſeruice, & laying the ſame vpon their land, and by pitching, pauing and laying of ſuch places with Bricks, Stones, Planckes, Boardes, Lime, Sand or Grauell, by which meanes a great part of the beſt and moſt ſufficient grounds, which heretofore haue beene good, and wrought for Our ſeruice, are now ſpoiled and deſtroyed, and the like practiſes are daily vſed vpon thoſe grounds that yet remaine good, although the ſame hath been

forbidden by Our expresse Commandement in our Commission granted for that seruice from time to time, for the space of these Tenne yeeres, vpon paine of Contempt in that behalfe. Notwithstanding which Our Royall Commandement therein, the practise is still continued (as wee haue beene certified, aswell by some of the Lords and others of Our Priuie Councell, to Whom wee committed the care of this so important and weightie a businesse, as also by the Commissioners of Our Naue, to whom the same was referred) to the contempt of our Royall Authoritie, and the vtter destruction of Our said seruice; Insomuch that if some great care and speedie course bee not taken to restraine such doings, and to preserue the Mine and grounds for Salt-peeter that yet remaine good, and to restore such (as haue formerly beene destroyed) to their perfection, this Kingdome of England, (which hath hitherto beene prouided for within it selfe, and hath beene able to furnish other Our Realmes and Dominions of prouision for Salt-peeter in time of need) must in very short time bee driuen to bee beholding to forreine parts for the same prouision for the defence of Our Realmes.

Wee therefore, according to Our accustomed care, taking into Our Princelie consideration this so weightie and important a businesse of State, Our care being alwayes to watch ouer the Weale of Our Subiects, are resolued to meete with and preuent these so eminent and perillous enormities for the time to come; And for redresse thereof, doe heereby signifie Our pleasure to all Our louing Subiects and others: And therefore doe by this Our Proclamation straitly Charge and Commaund, That no person or persons whatsoeuer, of what degree or qualitie soeuer, within Our Kingdome of England, and dominion of Wales, doe at any time or times heereafter, paue, or lay with Bricke, Stone, Plancke-boardes, Lime, Sand, Grauell, or other thing whatsoeuer, that shall or may any way hurt, hinder, or preiudice the growth and increase of the Mine of Salt-peeter, any Douehouse or Douecoat, or any Warehouse or Outhouses, allowed by Our Commission to be wrought for Our seruice, or any Cellar or Vault (excepting only in that part of the Cellar or Vault where the Beere lieth) and excepting such Cellars and Vaults onely, wherein Noblemen and Gentlemen doe lay or draw their Wine, Beere or Sider for the prouision of their household: And that no Stables bee paued, pitched or grauelled, where the Horse feete vse to stand, but plancked onely, and neither Grauell, Stones, nor pitch bee deceitfully (as heeretofore hath beene vsed) laid vnder the planckes, nor before the planckes next the Manger, purposelie to destroy the growth of the Peeter, and to keepe the Peter-men from Working, but onely good earth, and such as is fit and apt to breed and increase the Mines of Peeter: And that no Inkeepers, or others that keepe Stables for Trauellers and passengers, doe vse any deceitfull meanes or deuices, Wherby to hinder or destroy the growth of Salt-peeter in those Stables, which are the principall places to bee kept for cherishing of that Mine, vpon such paines and penalties, as by the Lawes and Statutes of this Our Realme, or by the seueritie or Censure of Our Court of Starrechamber may be inflicted vpon the offendors, for contempt of this Our Royall Command. And Whereas Wee are certified, That many of the aforenamed places haue heeretofore had the Earth, that was naturally good for Our seruice, caried out by the owners thereof, and laid vpon the Land, purposely to destroy the Mine of Saltpeeter, and in the same places haue beene layd Sand, Grauell, Lime, Stone, Brickes, boards, plankes and other things, which haue not onely disabled those places for being fit for Our seruice, as otherwise they would haue beene, but doe also keepe such places from euer being good, or yeelding any Salt-peeter, so long as they bee so kept and continued: Wee doe therefore heereby straitly charge and command, vpon the paines and penalties aforesaid, That all, and euery person or persons whatsoeuer, of What estate or degree soeuer, that haue in their possessions or occupations any Douehouse or Douecoat, that heeretofore hath beene, or now is laid With Bricke, Stone, Sand or Grauell, Lime, Plancks, or other things whatsoeuer, to hurt or hinder the growth and increase of the Mine of Saltpeeter in any of the places aforesaid, That they, and euery of them being the owner, or present possessour or occupier of any such Douehouse or Douecoat, so heeretofore, or at this present pitched, paued or laid With Bricks, Stones, Lime, Sand, Grauell, Boards, plancks, or other thing whatsoeuer, that doth or may hurt, hinder or preiudice the growth or increase of Salt-peter, doe within three Moneths after the date heereof, at his or their owne proper costs and charges, take vp and carrie out of euerie such place or places, all such Bricks, Sand, Stones, Grauell, Lime, Plancks, Boards or other things whatsoeuer, that shall stand, or lie in any such place or places, being hurtfull or hindering to the growth and increase of the Mine of Salt-peter; And that they and euerie of them being the owner or present occupier or possessor of euery such place, doe within the time before limitted, lay againe into euery such place or places, out of which any ground, Bricke, Stone, Lime, Sand, Grauell, plancks or boards is taken vp or caried out, as is before mentioned, so much of the richest, mellowest, and best mould of earth or horse-dung, being rotten and drie, as shall leuell and fill vp the floore of euery such

Douehouſe or Douecoate, three foote deepe at the leaſt, to the end that all ſuch places may bee the ſooner readie to furniſh Our ſtore with the greater proportion and better Saltpeeter.

And if any perſon, or perſons, of what degree or condition ſoeuer, ſhall, after the publiſhing of this Our Will and pleaſure, preſume to carry, or ſuffer to be carried out of any Douehouſe, Douecoat, Cellar, or Vault, any ground or earth, that is good for this Our ſeruice, or ſhall lay, or ſuffer to be laid into any ſuch place, any Bricke, Stones, Sand, Grauell, Lime, Plankes, Boards, or other things, that ſhall or may hurt or hinder the growth of Saltpeeter, or doe keepe, or ſuffer to bee kept, contrary to the intent aboue mentioned, in any of their poſſeſſions, or occupations, any ſuch place, or places, that heretofore haue beene, or now are laid with Bricke, Stone, Lime, Sand, Grauell, Planckes, Boards, or other things hurtfull, or hindering to the growth and increaſe of Saltpeeter, and doe neglect or delay, to caſt out the ſame out of euery ſuch place, or places, and to fill againe and leuell, euery ſuch place three foot deepe, at the leaſt, with ſuch materialls as is before commanded, within the time limited; That then ſuch paines and penalties, as aforeſaid, ſhall bee inflicted vpon the offendours, for contempt of this Our Royall command.

And Wee doe further Will and Command, vpon the paines and penalties aforeſaid, that from henceforth, no Saltpeeter makers, or their ſeruants, that ſhall dig any place, or places, allowed by Our Commiſſion for the making of Saltpeeter, doe leaue the earth vncaſt in, in thoſe places where they ſhall worke, but doe throw all ſuch earth in the place againe, and then ſpread, and lay the ſame in orderly ſort, for the better increaſe and growth of Saltpeeter (according as is prouided in our ſaid Commiſſion, and in the couenants by them ſealed) and that no owners of the ſaid grounds ſhall interrupt, or hinder them in their ſo doing.

And moreouer, Our will and pleaſure is, and Wee doe hereby, giue full power, libertie, and authoritie, vnto our Saltpeeter-makers, and euery of them within the ſeuerall diuiſions, where they, or any of them, ſhall be lawfully authorized to worke for our ſeruice, that it ſhall, and may bee lawfull, for them, and euery of them, at all times in the day time, with the Conſtable of the Towne, Parish, or place, to goe into the lands, houſes, and poſſeſſions of any Our louing Subiects, to ſearch and ſee, how Our Commandement is obeyed and fulfilled, and the grounds made fit for Our ſeruice, without any let, contradiction, or interruption of any of Our Subiects.

And Whereas Wee are informed, that ſome of Our Subiects of eminencie, place, and authoritie (to the ill example of others) doe denie Our Saltpeeter-makers the grounds allowed vnto them, to bee wrought for Our ſeruice, by Our Commiſſion, and are very backeward, and ſlow in giuing vnto our Saltpeeter-makers, ſuch aſſiſtance for taking ſuch order, with ſuch as denie the grounds, and cariages as by our Commiſſion is commanded; By which conniuence, our authoritie is growne to bee contemned, and Our Saltpeeter-makers ſuſtaine ſuch great loſſe, and hindrance in doing of Our ſeruice, that they are vtterly diſcouraged, and diſabled in doing, or performing the ſeruice required of them: Theſe are therefore ſtraitly to charge and command all Our louing Subiects (vpon the paines and penalties aforeſaid) that they and euery of them, doe from time to time quietly permit, and ſuffer Our Saltpeeter-makers, and euery of them, that are lawfully authorized to doe Our ſeruice, to haue ſuch grounds, cariages, and other helpes and aſſiſtance, as by Our Commiſſion is allowed vnto them, without any of their lets, hindrances, or delaies. And Whereas information is giuen by the Deputie Saltpeeter-makers, and great complaint is made by them, that diuers euill diſpoſed perſons, doe daily perſwade and draw their ſeruants, by giuing them money corruptly to ſpare their grounds, from being digged for Saltpeeter, and thereby doe not onely defraud Our ſeruice, but hinder the Saltpeeter-makers, that they cannot performe the proportion, which they are bound to deliuer into Our ſtore;

We therefore, hereby ſtraitly charge and command, vpon the penalties aforeſaid, that no perſon, or perſons whatſoeuer, vpon the paines and penalties aforeſaid, ſhall corruptly, directly, or indirectly giue vnto any perſons whatſoeuer, pretending themſelues to be Saltpeeter-men, any monie to ſpare their grounds, as aforeſaid. And that no ſuch Saltpeeter-man, or other perſon whatſoeuer, ſhall take any ſuch bribes, vpon any pretence to the ends aforeſaid.

And for the more better, and ſpeedy performance of this Our ſeruice, Our will and pleaſure is, That the Commiſſioners for our Naute ſhall from time to time take notice of all ſuch complaints, as ſhall be brought vnto them, touching any offence that ſhall bee committed contrary to this Our Proclamation; And that the Commiſſioners ſhall certifie the ſame to Our Right truſty and Right Welbeloued Cozen and Counſellor George, Duke of Buckingham, Lord high Admirall of England, and Our Right truſty and Welbeloued Counſellor George, Lord Carew, Maſter of Our Ordinance, to whoſe eſpeciall truſt and care We haue committed the gouernment of this buſineſſe, by Our

Commission vnder Our great Seale of England; And that they, or either of them, shall from time to time send for all offenders complained of, and cause the offenders complained of, to be examined by Our said Commissioners of Our Name, and vpon their report take such further order therein, by referring the offenders to be prosecuted in Our Court of Starre-Chamber, or otherwise, as to their wisedomes shall seeme meet.

And further, We doe by these presents will and require all and singuler Maiors, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Bayliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other Our Officers, and Ministers whatsoeuer, that they, and euery of them, in their seuerall Offices, and places, be diligent and obseruant in the due execution of this Our Proclamation, and also to be ayding and assisting vnto such person and persons and his and their Deputies, as are or shall be so (as aforesaid) authorized and appointed, aswell for discouery of any act or acts to be performed, contrary to the intent of these presents, or the tenor of Our said Commission vnder Our great Seale, as otherwise, in doing and executing of any matter or thing, for the accomplishing of this Our Royall commandement.

And further, Our will and pleasure is, And We doe hereby charge and command Our Attourney generall for the time being, to informe against such persons in Our said Court of Starre-Chamber, from time to time, whose contempt and disobedience against this Our Royall commandement, shall be certified vnto him, and to prosecute euery such information speedily and effectually, vntill the same shall be brought to sentence; It being Our expresse will and pleasure, that seuere punishment shalbe executed vpon all the said offenders whatsoeuer. And, as wee haue signified Our pleasure, how seuerely We will punish such as shall disobey this Our Proclamation: So We let Our louing Subiects to know, that on the other side, Our eares shall be as open to heare the iust complaints of any Our Subiects against any the Salt Peter-makers, that shall any way misdemeane themselues towards any of Our Subiects in places where they worke. It being allwayes Our Princely care to prouide, that no abuse be offered to any of Our Subiects whatsoeuer. And Our pleasure is, that such person or persons, who shall be appointed to take care and charge of the execution of Our pleasure in the premisses, or any person or persons, that shall giue information therein, and follow the same, shall haue the one halfe of the Fine, to be imposed vpon the offenders against this Our Proclamation, for their encouragement to be diligent and faithfull therein.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster, the sixe and twentieth day of December, in the two and twentieth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the eight and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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